

instructions to' the Envoys. Though these instructions were reduced to writing early in March, his departure from Washington relieved the Cabinet of the spur of his presence, and the Secretary of State, on one pretext and another, delayed until the middle of September to send them to him for final revision. Even then they were accompanied by an appeal to< suspend the mission. Mr. Adams now saw, what he had for months suspected, that his Cabinet was eager to\* break off all that had been achieved toward the establishment of peace. Thenceforward the firmness of his course was in striking contrast to the vacillating policy previously pursued. He forced the Cabinet to approve the instructions again drawn up, and, early in October, without consulting them., requested the Envoys to< sail at as early a date as possible. From this action may be dated the President's break from the leaders of his party—a rupture followed by the overthrow of the Federalists and the establishment of the Jeffersonians in power.

To dissensions in the Federalist party was added the burden of unpopular legislation. Jefferson and Madison had turned the popular mind to the dangers to. individual liberty proceeding from the Federalist legislation during Adams' term of office. Although the Alien and Sedition Laws were by express provision to expire in 1800 and 1801 respectively, and although in reality they had b«en enforced in a very small number of cases, nevertheless the jealousy of the individual for his liberty, in the Federalist as well as in the Republican States, had been aroused, and the Republican party was not slow to turn it to advantage.

Thus conditions in general seemed to point to the success of the Republican party in the Presidential and Congressional campaign of 1800. In May, Jefferson had been unanimously nominated by the Congressional caucus for President, and Aaron Burr had been nominated for Vice-President. Jefferson was from the beginning confident of his election. In March he wrote to Madison: "As the conveyance is confidential, I can say something on a subject which to those who do not know my real disposition respecting it might seem indelicate. The Federalists begin to be very seriously alarmed about their elec-